

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in reference to the fuel credits that go to the pulp and paper industries. The fuel credit that is being discussed is very dear to me and my family, because without it we would probably be unemployed right now instead of working. The Alabama River Companies supply thousands of jobs to the citizens of Monroe, Conecuh, Clarke, Wilcox, and Escambia counties. If you will take some time to look into it, these counties are among the poorest in Alabama. Without the fuel credit, we are sure to close in the coming months. The Alabama River Companies employ about 550 full time people. We also have resident contractors on site that encompasses another 100 full time people. The vendors, miscellaneous contractors, truck drivers take into account for another 1,000 people. And when I say people, I actually mean families. The closure of this mill would have a tremendous ripple effect in the economic status of the said counties above. These counties have already lost thousands of jobs in this economic crisis. If you end the fuel credit, you will effectively shut these counties down and they will dry up and blow away.

Take a look at the map and see how many pulp and paper mills are in Alabama. Draw a 100 mile radius around each mill, and you will see what wide spread devastation will be caused with the ending of the fuel credit. I realize the fuel credit is costly, but it's also temporary. Once the recession is over, you won't hear any complaints about cutting the funds off. As a witness to what the fuel credit funds are being spent on, I can tell you that it's not being wasted. Large amounts of money are being spent on infrastructure and on eliminating safety hazards. There is some money being spent on capital projects to open us up to other markets, as well as to help us operate greener, and more efficient. Our environmental impact is lower now than I have ever seen.

You are welcome to give me a call or even make a visit. Thank you for your consideration.

John Presley
Shift Coordinator
Alabama River Companies